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Louisiana Civil War Records

Military Records

Confederate records were often incomplete and Union soldiers often destroyed those that existed during the occupation of Louisiana. In 1920 Andrew B. Booth compiled the available information for a publication entitled Records of Louisiana Confederate Soldiers and Commands. Additional records, located in this state after 1920, were directed to the National Archives in order that the files could be updated.

Copies of the carded military service records and bounty land claims are available through the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). Researchers should direct their inquiries to:

The National Archives and Records Administration
8601 Adelphi Road
College Park, MD 20740-6001
www.archives.gov

Unit information is contained in War Of The Rebellion (a 128 volume publication) available for reference at large university libraries or the Louisiana Adjutant General's Office Jackson Barracks, New Orleans, LA 70146. The holdings of the Adjutant General's Office also include records pertaining to Louisiana militia units.

Confederate Pension Records

Confederate pensions were granted in 1898 to soldiers and/or their widows meeting the following requirements: a) The soldier must have served honorably from date of enlistment until discharge or the end of the war; b) The applicant must be indigent and unable to earn a livelihood; c) The applicant could not be a government employee. Individuals applied in the state of their residence regardless of the state in which they served. Residence in southern states, which were members of the Confederacy, was a necessity. If there were no records to prove a veteran's service, he was required to provide affidavits by comrades-in-arms or supporting documentation from the war in his possession.

The Confederate Pension applications have been digitized and microfilmed, are indexed alphabetically and are available for research in the research library. Individual copies can be obtained from this office at a cost of \$15.00 per individual and application.

Louisiana Union Records

The State Archives maintains the National Archives and Records Administration microfilm Compiled Service Records of Volunteer Union Soldiers Who Served in Organizations From the State of Louisiana (Publication #M396, Accession P1987-6). Additional Union soldier records such as military service records are available through the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). Union pension applications are available only through the NARA.

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The Rebel Archives

This collection consists of a broad array of records that document the activities of Louisiana's state government and military prior to and during the War Between the States. In addition, the collection also contains records generated by the Federal occupation government that was established in New Orleans following the surrender of that city.

These records followed the migration of Louisiana's state government from Baton Rouge to Opelousas and finally to Shreveport during the war. It was in Shreveport in the spring of 1865 that they were surrendered to Federal authorities following the cessation of hostilities. They were subsequently transferred to the United States War Department designated the collection as the "Rebel Archives." Later all records were transferred to the custody of the National Archives and Records Administration where they remained until around 1960 when Congress ordered the return to the former Confederate states governmental records seized at the end of the war.

Correspondence received and sent by Governor Thomas Overton Moore, and Governor Henry Watkins Allen, criminal court proceedings, land purchase certificates, military orders, officer rosters, court martial proceedings, military correspondence, ordnance receipts, Attorney General opinions, slave records, State Auditor reports, financial records, reports of the Department of Public Works, accounts of foreign military units formed in the state, legislative records, pamphlets, and broadsides are but samplings of the records found in this series.

Other records document the construction of Camp Lewis near New Orleans at the beginning of the war along with preparations undertaken by the state to fortify New Orleans and the Mississippi River.

The researcher will also find useful a large volume of documents detailing the activities of the Cotton Bureau that was established by Governor Allen to trade Louisiana cotton to secure much needed supplies for the war effort. The success of this program and its director, Emory Clapp, still stands as one of the crowning achievements of Governor Allen's war time administration.

This collection is arranged chronologically and information is provided as to the size, physical condition, and handwriting legibility of each record. An inventory of the collection is searchable by key word through our research desk.